

# *Creating your First Web Site with Expression Web*



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# How do you make a web site with Expression Web ?

Expression Web templates can be used to create your own web presence. This tutorial shows you how to build a basic web site template using an unstyled CSS template that provides us with a header, navigation bar, 2 columns and a footer.

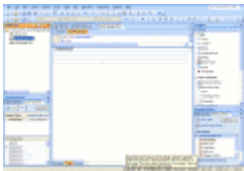
First open up Expression Web and create a new one page web site. Ensure that you have Expression Web set to the [default layout](#). Click - Task Panes > Reset work space layout.

**Then do the following: File > new > page**

From the next pop up choose CSS layouts and select the 5th template. (Header, nav, 2 columns, footer) Clicking the template will open 2 new files. The actual HTML page and the CSS file.

**Now click File > save as and save the web page as masterpage and the CSS we will call masterstyles.**

Your page view in Expression Web , should look like the page below.



Click on it for a larger view. (opens in a new window) All that remains is for us to tell the html what to do using CSS. First we will add some colour to the site starting from the top and working down.

At the bottom of Expression Web default layout, on the left and right, we see apply styles, manage styles and css properties tabs from the task pane box's

In the bottom right hand side of Expression Web in default view, you will see the Manage styles task pane. This identifies the styles that are currently being used in the web site. At the moment, we see just 6 styles. These control the <div> that make up your page.

At the bottom of your page, on the left hand side, you will see the CSS properties/Tag properties task panes, click on the CSS properties tag this is the task pane that we will use exclusively for styling our new Expression Web template.

## So if you are ready lets add some colour to the site via CSS

Click inside the #masthead <div> From the CSS Properties task pane select Background color and type in the following: #7D5F50 this will make the background color of the #masthead <div> brown.

Click inside the #top\_nav <div> once again From the CSS Properties task pane select Background color and type in the following: #C98080 this will make the top\_nav background colour a pinkish/plum colour.

Click your mouse inside the #left\_col <div> From the CSS Properties task pane select Background color and type in the following: #C99981 a lighter brown colour

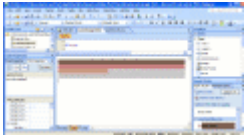
Click inside the #page\_content <div> From the CSS Properties task pane select Background color and type in the following: #C9C9C9 Grey/silver colour

Click inside the #footer <div> From the CSS Properties task pane select Background color and type in the following: #C9C9C9 Grey/silver colour.

A simple flash tutorial on how to style Expression Web CSS based templates can be found [here](#).

[CSS/stageonestyle.htm](#)

By no means are you ready to display your page to the world! But, you have made a good start to styling Expression Web templates. Your page should look like the one here.



Click on it for a larger image (opens in a new window) To return to this page, just close the newly opened page. Assuming you have a page that looks like the screen shot, we are ready to move onto styling the text. Remember, we are trying to create an easy to update, standards compliant, accessible valid web site. The hard work is all at the build stage. Once complete, changing your web site is very easy.

## Styling Text

Making you web site text stand out but allowing simple updating of said styles, is one of the most enduring parts of web site design. In the past, we would have used the mouse and the font colour, size and font family to style our different parts of the page! This is wrong and what's more, it is hard work.

The second part of this Expression Web tutorial is based on how to style Expression Web text elements of your page.

There is nothing stopping you just jumping in and typing text - except - That would be wrong. We need to use the HTML tags that we have always used. eg: `<p>` `<h1>` `<h2>` and so on.

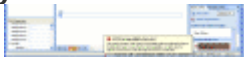
Doing this gives us control over how the page content will be displayed.

## Part 2 Expression Web tutorial

### Styling the text of your Expression Web template.

First of all we need a basic understanding or HTML mark-up. What are all those tag things for? Expression Web will create the HTML tags for you. An example is below.

`<p>` this is the opening tag of any paragraph text. All opening tags, should have a closing tag `</p>` this is the closing tag of a paragraph. Failing to ensure that these are both opened and closed will result in your page not being valid HTML code. Fortunately, Expression Web comes with inbuilt HTML validation. As depicted by the HTML incompatibility icon at the bottom of

the screen next to the visual aids indicator.  Expression Web will constantly check your code to make sure that what you are producing is valid. Keep an eye on the icon as no pop up prompt is offered. The error here was forced by putting an image on the page but NOT offering an alt text. This is a very common error and one that will instantly invalidate your site and what is worse will render the site inaccessible to screen readers who after all rely on the 'alt' text to describe the image.

So it is important to get it right from the outset.

So lets go back to our Styling tutorial and add some text styles to our web page template.

We start once again at the top of the page with the masthead `<div>` click on the `<div>` and the style properties become visible. Currently we only have the background colour specified as below.

```
#masthead {  
background-color: #7d5f50;  
}
```

We will use the masthead <div> as our banner. In this instance, we will just use text. In a later tutorial we discuss how to use graphics.

Type into your masthead <div> the word Banner Heading. Highlight the text and select H1 from the drop down style box. At this stage, you will see big black text and additional white space on your page! Note that the HTML produced by Expression Web is for the <h1></h1> and both the opening and closing tags are in place. Without a style being specified, the users computer will display the text at default settings. This is what you currently see. No problem as we are about to change that.

## Apply Styles Task Pane in Expression Web

We need to create a new style for the banner text and as we have styled the text as Heading 1 (H1) in the #masthead <div> our style name will reflect this.

Click on New Style in the Apply Styles task pane. A pop up box will appear. Do the following.

In the selector box type : #masthead h1.  
Click on Define in and select Existing Style sheet.  
Click on the url drop down box and select masterstyles.css

We have now told Expression Web that we want our style to be added to our existing style sheet (masterstyles.css) The new style is called #masthead h1 and it controls the banner text in the masthead. So lets add the style.

In the font size box type: 160 and select % from the drop down box.  
Click on Font weight and select: Bold  
Click on color and select more colors, then select: white (FF,FF,FF)  
Click on Box from the category selections and set the margin to be zero (0px)  
Finally check the apply new style to document selection

Click on the OK button to return to your page. Instantly you will see that the style has been applied to the banner text in the masthead of your template. It is 160% in size and set to be white in colour. The background colour was set to be brown in our previous tutorial.

Congratulations, you have taken your first step to creating a valid XHTML / CSS based web site in Expression Web that is valid and accessible.

Here is a [Flash tutorial](#) explaining each step of the way.

Now we need to style up the rest of the page using CSS and HTML

## Styling the navigation bar

To style the #top\_nav navigation links, we are going to use CSS to make button style links that change colour when hovered over. This is a great way of styling links and a later tutorial will explain how to use graphics for your links thus making real buttons that only require 2 images! But more of that later.

Below is an unordered list.

- list one
- list two
- list three

This is the html that Expression Web produces:

```
<ul>  
<li>list one</li>
```

```
<li>list two</li>
<li>list three</li>
</ul>
```

We will use this type of list to create our link and button effect. Making CSS menus is not very difficult and whilst there are other methods of creating menus, this is probably the most simple.

We must remember that all the html we or Expression Web writes is in fact already styled or controlled by default by your computer.

The list above is a typical example. Whilst it has some CSS controlling it, it is typical of a Bulleted list. Your computer will tell a bulleted (ul) list to be indented from the left and have bullets (markers) before the text. Like the one above. But CSS allows us to do a lot more. We could use an image as the bullet/marker. We can move the list to the left or right, change the font size and lots more.

Once you have completed this tutorial, you will have a navigation set that can go onto produce an infinite number of variations to use on another site or template.

Click inside the #top\_nav <div> and from the drop down style box select Unordered list (ul)

As soon as you do this Expression Web will throw in some white space around the <div> this is normal as we saw in the last tutorial when working with the masthead banner text. Now type in the following

- List 1
- List 2
- List 3
- List 4
- List 5

You will notice that the #top\_nav <div> expands to fit the list, again this is normal and will be corrected from the styles we apply.

Now we need to create the styles to control the list.

In the apply Styles task pane click on the new style button.

In the pop up, The first we need to do is change the name of the selector. Delete all the text and type in

```
#top_nav ul
```

(ul is the tag for unordered list) Therefore, we are telling the css to only style unorderedq lists in the #top\_nav <div> Unordered lists anywhere else on the page will be either un-styled or styled via another CSS class or ID

Click on the apply style to document selection check box

Don't forget, we are working the CSS via an external style sheet. I personally prefer this method and urge you to adopt it. So we must always remember to Define the style into an existing style sheet. (our external style sheet)

Select this option from the drop down list (existing style sheet)

Select masterstyles.css from the url dropdown list

We really don't want those ugly bullets/markers in our navigation so we will remove them with CSS.

Click on List, from the category list

Click on list style and select none

We need to set the width of the ul to be 100% This is done in the Position Category so click on it

Just click inside the width box and type 100 then select % from the next dropdown

Just one last thing to do and that's set the margins and padding.

The style we are creating controls the Unordered list which actually only holds the list items so we are saying the the unordered list should butt up tight to the #top\_nav <div> edges (margins) and that anything inside the ul should be tight to it (the ul) (Padding) This is how we lose the white space.

Just one last thing to do and that's set the margins and padding.

So click on the Box category and type zero in margin and zero in padding.

Now click the OK button.

You will get an error. Just click ok.

*The error comes up because we have only styled the unordered list. When we style the li tag next, the style will be applied.*

**NOW SAVE YOUR WORK!**

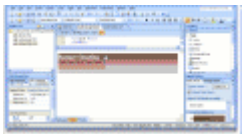
Click on New style in the apply styles task pane and in the pop up type

#top\_nav li

Into the selector box

Click on layout from the category list and then select left from the Float dropdown box.

Float takes the selected element out of the normal document flow so the list is pulled into line. Float is a complicated style to explain but you will probably know of its use with images.



That's it click OK and your page will look like the last page in this tutorial.

The next mini tutorial is about actually adding the button and rollover effects.

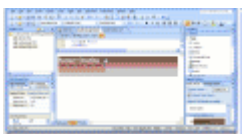
View our flash tutorial on How to create a navigation bar in Expression Web . [Tutorial](#)

Lets add some links and link styling

## Part 3b

### Styling the navigation links with CSS

In our previous tutorial [Styling the navigation bar](#) we learnt how to use an unordered list as a horizontal link bar. We now focus on styling the list to look like a navigation bar.



Your page should look like the screen shot. As we are creating a navigation bar, we need to make the link 1/2/3/4/5 text into actual hyperlinks. This is done in the normal way by selecting the text and using the insert hyperlink icon from the tool bars. It does not matter where your link is set to go, all we are interested in is having the links to apply the styles to.

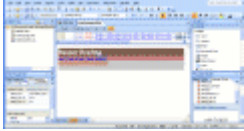
Using your mouse, select the text - *Link 1*, click on the insert hyperlink icon from the tool bar or use Ctrl+K

The hyperlink properties control box will pop up.

In the text to display box, you should see the Link 1 text (if not, type it in)

In the Address box, click the drop down arrow and select a previously visited web site. (Remember we are only interested in the hyperlink not where it leads us)

Complete the above process for all the link texts and we are ready to continue with styling the links. Your page should look like the one below.



## Create the link style

In the manage styles task pane, select New Style

Change the selector name to

#top\_nav a

Check the apply style to document selection and make sure that the Define in, is set to Existing Style sheet and use the URL drop down to locate your file masterstyles.css

Now we need to do some styling.

Click on the small square next to the Color box

From this colour palette, select white (#FF,FF,FF)

Note\* from this palette, you can choose an almost infinite number of colours or type in directly the colour you want to use.

\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\* Color is the correct spelling for colour and Color controls the text colour of the given element

Click OK

We are styling a navigation bar - you will remember that we used an un-ordered list and a CSS style to get rid of the bullets? Well we will do the same to get rid of the hyperlink text underline.

Under the text decoration heading, click None.

Select layout from the category list

Select Display and then select Block

Now we want to add a border to the link.

Select border from the category list

From the border style dropdown select

Solid

Make sure you leave same for all selected.

For border width, i would always suggest that you specify a size in pixels. This is because different browsers make different pages.

Thin - Medium - Thick will render differently in different browsers whereas 1 pixel will always be one pixel and 10 pixels will always be 10 pixels!

In the border width box Type 1 and check the size is set to px

In the border colour box type the following

```
#7D5F50
```

This is the brown colour of our masthead.

From the category list, select Box

We only want to use the left and right padding in this instance so un check the Same for all box.

In the box for padding right type 5 and make sure px is selected for the measurement

Do the same for the left padding.

Now we want to colour the background - as you will see from the style preview below we have a Box!

Click on Background from the category list and in the background colour box, type the following

```
#7D5F50
```

This is the same as our border colour.

See from the style preview that we now have a brown box with white text.

The text is now visible as we have a brown background but the border appears to have disappeared. This is only because the background colour and the border colour are the same!

The border is not really required but, it will allow us to pull off other CSS styling tricks at a later date.

As it stands, we have a navigation link that is brown with white text and a brown border. The links will be tight together but we can add some space.

Select Box from the category list

Deselect the same for all check box in the margins section

Set the margin right to be 2px

All we have done is to add a 2 pixel space between the links.  
This gives the illusion of buttons at its most basic level.

We are in the habit of checking the Apply new style to document selection - or at least we should be!

You may have your cursor in the `#nav_bar <div>` you may not.

You may get the following error message, you may not.

If you do just click OK.

Now we can see the style that we have just created.

Remember though, this is only the style for the link.

We now need to style the hover state.

In the manage styles task pane, select New style

Select and delete the Selector text and type in the following syntax.

```
#top_nav a:hover
```

Type the following syntax into the Color box

`#FAE687`

This is the text colour of the hovered link

We don't want the text to be underlined so click on None in the text-decoration section.

Now click on border from the category list

Set the border to be solid and same for all

See the border in the style preview?

Select the border width and set it to be 1px

The border colour is currently inherited from the text colour.

We will change this by selecting border-color and typing in the following syntax

`#C99981`

See the changes in the style preview below.

Click on Background from the Category list

We want to change the background colour. Type in the following

`#C99981`

We can now see how the hover style will look.

We are almost complete!

Click on OK so that we can have a quick look to see how our Top navigation link really looks.



This is how your page should look in Expression Web . We will look at the page in a browser shortly but we have 1 major thing to complete.

Internet explorer and FireFox browsers, will render you page differently! Firefox will for instance will make the page look different than in IE. Our job is to make them look exactly the same! So with this in mind, we need to set a height for the `#top_nav <div>` - otherwise the `<div>` will collapse and the navigation will not be visible to FireFox users

In the manage styles task pane, select the manage styles tab.

Look for the `#top_nav <div>` right click on it and select modify style.

So here we are again but not far to go.....

Select position from the Category list

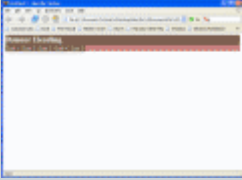
Type in 20 for the height and make sure px is selected.


Once again click OK and you will be taken back to your page.

Now we are going to test the page.

**\*\*\*Note\*\*\*** It is best to design using FireFox as your browser. Get it right in FF and your page will most likely look right in IE too.

Click on the preview in browser icon. If you have it test in FireFox if not IE will do.

View in FF 

View in IE 

You maybe prompted to save your page if so click OK

So hopefully you will have an identical page?

The brown button links change colour when hovered over.

Internet explorer will display a slightly different page. IE will show the main text area and the footer (the whole page)

## Part 4

### Styling the vertical menu using CSS

In our [previous Expression Web tutorial](#), we learnt how to style the Horizontal CSS menu, using an unordered list and some CSS. Now we need to look at the left hand side navigation links.



Your page should be looking like the screen shot here. You will recall that we created a menu using an unordered list and some CSS. We will style the vertical navigation in much the same way as the horizontal but with a couple of modifications. Open your practice site and the masterpage.

Click inside the #left\_col <div>  
From the tool bar select bulleted list

As you can see a unordered list has been placed on your page.

Type in the following text as an unordered/bulleted list.

- [Link 6](#)
- [Link 7](#)
- [Link 8](#)
- [Link 9](#)
- [Link 10](#)

Now we will turn the text into Links

Highlight the Link 6 text and the use the hyperlink icon to create a link.

It does not matter where the link goes, we are only interested in the hyperlink. In this case, i have selected a link from my recently visited sites. But it could have been any link. You can select pages from within your site or outside of your site.

Repeat for all of the text link text.

We now have an unordered list of links (CSS menu)

Click on new style in the manage styles task pane

Delete the selector text

Type the following into the selector box

```
#left_col ul
```

As we have used a list, we want to get rid of the bullets/markers

Select list from the Category list

In the list style type dropdown, select none

Now select Position from the Category list

Set the width to 100%

Don't forget to select % from the size dropdown

Select Layout from the Category list

Click the dropdown beside display and select Block

Select Box from the Category list

Set the margin to 0(zero)px and do the same for padding

Click OK

Your page should look like the screenshot below.



## Styling the list

Select new style from the manage styles task pane

Delete the selector text

Type the following into the selector box

```
#left_col li
```

Don't forget to Define in: Existing style sheet and make sure masterstyles.css is selected!

Select layout from the Category list

Click on display and select Block

Select Box from the category list

Set the margin to be 0(zero)px

Set padding to 0(zero)px

Select border from the Category list

Border style set to solid

Border width set to 1px

Type the following code into the border colour box

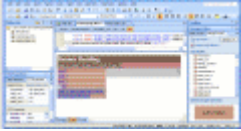
```
#FFFFFF
```

Select Background from the Category list

For Background colour, type in the following code

```
#C99981
```

Your page should look like the screen shot below.



Click on New Style in the manage styles task pane  
Delete the selector text and replace it with the following.

`#left_col a`

This is the start of the link styling

In the color box, type the following code

`#FF6600`

We don't want our links underlined so select None from the text decoration list

Select layout from the Category list

Click on the display dropdown and select Block

Select Box from the Category list

Set the padding to be 1px

Now select Border from the Category list

Set the border style to be Solid

Set the border width to be 1px

Type the following code into the border color

`#C99981`

Select Block from the Category list

Click on the Text-align dropdown and select center

Select Box (again) from the Category list

In the margin section, deselect the Same for all check box

Set the right margin to be 20px

Set the left margin to 20px

Click on Font (again) from the Category list

Set the font size to be 100%

Select background from the category list

Type the following code into the Background color box

`#FAE687`

That about it for Links...

Now we are going to style the hover effect.

Not long to go now!

Your page should look like the one below.



Click on New Style from the manage styles task pane.  
Delete the Selector text

Type the following into the Selector text box

```
#left_col a:hover
```

Click on Color and type in the following

```
#FFFFFF
```

Again we don't want the text to be underlined so click on none in the Text decoration area.

Select Border from the Category list

Click on the Border Style dropdown and select Solid

In the border width type 1 (one) make sure px is selected.

In border color, type in the following

```
#C98080
```

Make sure Same for all is checked for Style - width and color

Select Box from the Category list

Deselect same for all in the Margin section

In the right margin box type

```
20
```

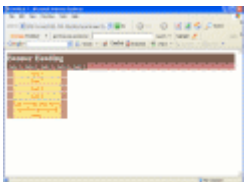
make sure px is selected.

Click ok and preview your page in Expression Web

Your page should look like this.



This is how the page looks in Internet Explorer.



Roll your mouse over the links to check that all is working as intended. (Rollover the links when previewing your own page in IE)

Its always good to check the design in other browsers too!

You should notice that when rolled over, the text of the links will change colour?

This is ok but we will make the hover state a little more dramatic.

In the manage styles task pane, select the manage style tab and find the following code

```
#left_col a:hover
```

Right click on this style and select Modify style

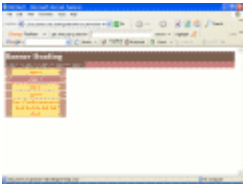
The style pop up box appears

Select Background from the Category list

Type the following into the Background color box

```
#C98080
```

That's it we are done! Your page should look like this in Internet Explorer.



Save your work and test it in a browser.

## Part 5

### Styling the main content area of your Expression Web template.

The [previous tutorial](#), explained how to style the vertical links using CSS.

Styling the `#page-content <div>` is very simple.

The first thing we need to do is type in some text, and use some headings and lists, [Here is the sample text html](#) that I used. Just copy the text from the page and paste it into your `#page_content <div>`

### Default Styling

When creating a web site template using CSS, we need to understand that everything we put on the page is in a box and each box has a natural boundary. The boxes and boundaries of these imaginary boxes are completely controllable by you. To make web sites that display the same in all browsers means that you have to tell the browser what to do with the box, boundary and the contents of the box (your text or graphics) That's how CSS works.

The sample text html shows this well. The gaps between the text headings and lists are all separated by the natural boundary. By controlling these boundaries, we can make our page look exactly as we want it to look.

If you have copied and pasted the sample text html into your template page, it should look like this.



Notice how the text is very bland, (times new roman) black, touching the sides and see how those headings and lists look! It's not pretty is it?

We will do some basic styling, just enough to get the page looking a little better than it does now!

If you have copied and pasted the sample text, your page should look like the example above.

Click anywhere inside the `#page_content <div>` and the style is highlighted in the Manage styles task pane.

Right click on the `#page_content` style and select modify style from the pop up list

From the category list select box

In the padding box type 5 and select px

I never liked the grey background so click on Background in the Category list

Clicking on the existing background color, will highlight the text

Type in the following

```
#E1B9B9
```

Click OK

In the manage styles task pane click New Style

Make sure Define in is set to Existing style sheet and that the URL points to masterstyles.css

From the selector dropdown list, select h2

From the Category list select Box

Set the margin to 0px (zero) and make sure the same for all box is checked

Click OK

That sorts out the display issues in Firefox whilst adding a little colour to the template.

We will now style the rest of the page.

In the Manage Styles task pane click on New style

Click on the Selector dropdown list and select

```
body
```

Click on the font-family dropdown and select

```
Arial, Helvetical, Sans-serif
```

The `<body>` tag controls all the text on the page.

Its the easy way to style a page.

Later we will over ride this style using the `#left_col <div>`

We will change the font only for `<p>` (paragraphs) in the `#left_col <div>` all other text will remain as the default.

Click on ok

Notice how all the text has taken on the font we specified in the `<body>` tag

You might have noticed that we have a space issue between the h2 and first `<p>` paragraph?

Remember what i said about box's and boundary's - this is a typical example.

Click on new style in the Manage styles task pane

In the selector box, type in the following

```
#page_content p
```

In the category list, select Box

De select the same for all tick box

Set the margin top to 0px (zero)

Select Font from the category list

Set the font size to 80%

Click OK

See how the text has moved closer to the heading

The white space to the left of the main text, is a little stark so we will colour it to look like the rest of the site.

In the manage styles task pane, find the `#container <div>`

Right click it and select modify style

Select background from the Category list and type in the following background color

#E1B9B9

Click OK Your page should look a little more like a web page now

Now we will make the left\_col <div> paragraphs look different to the other text on the page.

You will recall that we set all fonts via the <body> tag to be Arial, Helvetica, Sans-serif.

This is how we override the <body> tag font setting.

Select new style from the manage styles task pane.

You probably dont have text in the #left\_col <div>

Just click at the end of the text on the last navigation button and then push enter twice. This should start a new paragraph that will take on the styles we apply.(if you only click enter the once, you are effectively continuing the unordered list that we used for the navigation buttons. Clicking enter twice will take you out of the list and create a paragraph ready for your text.)

Delete the default text and replace it with the following

#left\_col p

Change the font size to 90%

Set the font weight to be bold

Then set the font to

Courier New, Courier, Monospace using the font family dropdown list

Click OK

There is perhaps on more thing to do.

The left side navigation buttons are a little bright and stand out a lot so we will blend them in

In the manage styles task pane find the left\_col a style  
right click on it and choose modify style

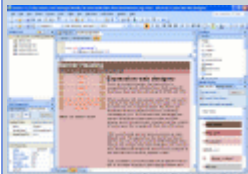
From the category list, select background

Remove the existing code and replace it with

#E1B9B9

Click OK

Your page should look like the image below in Expression Web .



This is the page in Firefox



And this is the Expression Web template displayed in Internet Explorer.



## Part 6

# Styling the footer

The footer is usually used for a back to the top link and or web site/company details.

On this occasion, we will use it as an introduction to using graphics in your styling. First we need a background tile. It just so happens that i have one here.



Right click the image and save to your web site files. Remember where you put the image but anywhere in your web files will do.

Click inside the #footer <div>  
It will now be highlighted in the Manage styles task pane  
Select modify style  
From the category list select background  
Browse to the image that you have saved

You will no doubt see the preview!

This is not how it is supposed to look so we need to tame the style a little

Click on the Background repeat drop down  
Select repeat x  
Select Position from the Category list  
For the height type  
20  
make sure px is selected  
Click OK

You can see now we have controlled the style.

If you want, you can type a back to the top link or add company details.

[Your page should be looking like this.](#)

## How to build an Expression Web DWT (Dynamic web template)

### What is a DWT and why would you want to use one?

DWT's are unique to FP2003 Expression Web and DW MX. Basically a dwt is a site wide template that you can assign regions to. You decide if that region is editable or non editable.

### DWT editable region

This is content that you can freely change. Typically these editable regions will be your site content and graphics or news/call out boxes in the side panels of your site.

### DWT Non Editable regions.

This is content that cannot be changed! We say cannot be changed but of course it can. Non editable regions can be changed only in the DWT page.

To understand this you need to understand how a DWT works.

Basically, you build a master template, much like the Expression Web tutorial that is available [here](#)

Once the master template is saved as a DWT, you attach it to blank pages to create a web site. When the dwt is attached to a blank page, you can only change the editable regions on that page.

So what is the benefit of a DWT?

Assume you have a master page, and only the main content area is editable. This would mean that things like the header/banner, the navigation and the footer **CAN ONLY BE CHANGED IN THE DWT PAGE**. If you change the DWT page, all the pages in your site that use the DWT will change also. So say you add links to the menu in the DWT. Once saved, it will update all the pages attached to it. This is a big bonus and a bit like page includes on steroids!

So when you have a master page completed, creating web sites is quick and simple. Site wide changes are even easier.

### How to build a DWT tutorial.

To create a Expression Web DWT, we must first have a template to work with. Open the Expression Web template tutorial masterpage and do the following.

Click file, save as  
Click on the Save as type - dropdown button  
Select Dynamic Web Template from the dropdown  
Click save

Your masterpage dwt should now be open in Expression Web

Select all the text except for the heading and the first paragraph.  
Delete the text  
Save your page

We now have a DWT that has been created from our original masterpage.htm.

The DWT is useless without editable regions. Whilst you can make any amount of changes in the DWT file, only the editable regions will be editable in the pages you create from the DWT

So we need to make an editable region.

Select all the text in the main text area of your DWT page  
Right click with your mouse  
Select manage editable regions from the drop down  
In the region name box type the following  
  
maincontent  
Click the add button  
Maincontent is added to your editable regions  
Click the close button

You can now see that the text on your DWT page is surrounded by a yellow border and titled maincontent

Save your page

So lets test the DWT

Click on the new page icon

A new blank page is created for you

Click on Format from the top most menu bar

Select Dynamic Web Template and then attach dynamic web template

Click on masterpage.dwt from the file list

Expression Web will tell you that 1 file has been updated.

This means that Expression Web has attached the DWT to your blank page.

If you have 45 pages in your web all using the DWT, Expression Web will kindly tell you that 45 files have been updated when you make any changes to the DWT and save them.

Click the close button

OK, you should now see the blankpage looks like our DWT page. At the moment the page will be called Untitled\_1.htm (assuming you have not added any other pages.)

We obviously dont want the default DWT text in place so lets change it.

Click anywhere in the page title. Expression Web will highlight this as being a H2 in the maincontent editable region. The maincontent area is the only area we can change when making our web site. All other changes must be made in the DWT page.

Our next tutorial shows how this is done.

Select the H2 tag from the quick tag toolbar this will select the whole of the heading

Type a new heading such as the following

New page text heading

Select the 'new text heading' text with your mouse

From the style dropdown list in your formatting tool bar select Heading 2 <h2>

Carefully select the paragraph text using your mouse. Delete the text

Make sure that the blank <p> tag is still in place

Start adding your new content

When you have finished adding content save your page

In the save as pop up type

testpage

as the file name.

Save as type - web page - should be selected.

Click save

Congratulations, you have created a basic but very powerful DWT.